

Project: Game-Based Structural Debriefing  
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Topic: Vocabulary for lessons that use BrainPOP Food Fight  
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## Vocabulary

The **African Savanna** ecosystem is a tropical grassland with year-round warm temperatures and with its highest seasonal rainfall in the summer. The savanna is characterized by grasses and small or dispersed trees that do not form a closed canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the ground. The African savanna contains a diverse community of organisms that interact to form a complex food web.

Healthy, well-balanced ecosystems are made up of multiple, interacting **food chains**, called **food webs**. Carnivores (lions, hyenas, leopards) feed on herbivores (impalas, warthogs, cattle) that consume producers (grasses, plant matter). Scavengers (hyenas, vultures) and decomposers/detritivores (bacteria, fungi, termites) break down organic matter, making it available to producers and completing the food cycle (web). Humans are part of the savanna community and often compete with other organisms for food and space.

**Producer:** an organism in the food chain that produces its own energy and nutrients.

Examples: grasses, trees

**Primary consumer/herbivore:** an organism that eats mainly plants.

Examples: cows, impalas, warthogs, zebras

**Secondary consumer/carnivore:** an organism that eats meat.

Examples: leopard, lion

**Decomposer/detritivores:** organisms that break down dead plants, animal material and waste and release energy and nutrients in the ecosystem.

Examples: bacteria, fungi, termites

**Scavenger:** an animal that eats dead or rotting animals.

Examples: vultures, hyenas

**Insectivore:** an organism that mostly eats insects.

Example: anteater